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## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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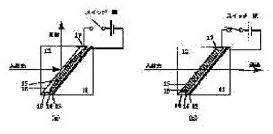
(22)Date of filing: 16.06.1999 (72)Inventor: KAWANAMI EIRISHI

## (54) OPTICAL SWITCH

## (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an optical switch which can be miniaturized by utilizing an electrowetting phenomenon and which can efficiently switch the optical path of the purpose of constructing an optical switch of a system different from conventional ones.

SOLUTION: The optical switch, which changes the optical path of incident light, is provided with a first and a second supporting bodies and a first liquid 15 and a conductive or polar second liquid 16 hermetically sealed in a space formed between the first and the second supporting bodies and mutually immiscible, and is constructed so that the shape of the boundary between the first and the second liquids



15, 16 is changed to change the optical path of incident light by changing voltage applied to the second liquid 16.

## **LEGAL STATUS**

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